

Living the Dream

by 4EverCharmed

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Summary: Professor Mills is determined to help Emma's dream to become a surgeon come true but when personal lives and hidden feelings get in the way, Regina will stop at nothing to support the blonde even if it means the possibility of letting her go.. More info inside!
SwanQueen

1. Chapter 1

I decided to go with a 'Friends' route with regards to the rules of college and that a relationship is only frowned upon and not illegal. However there will be struggles with both women's personal lives that will both pull them apart and bring them closer together. It is SwanQueen endgame! :) let me know what you think!

Chapter 1

Clutching one of her much needed books on Science, Emma Swan makes her way through the college campus corridor alongside her closest friend of who she had known for many years. Reaching the room in which she was headed, the blonde pauses by the door before running her free hand through her loose blonde curls. "Last class of the day...3 more months and hopefully I can go to med school.._if_ I get in.."

Scoffing the tall brunette raises an eyebrow to her friend. "If you get in? Come on no one has worked as hard as you, not just with school and college but you have literally saved since you were 12 and on a paper round to get into med school. When do you need to apply?"

"Once my exam results are in and are high enough, just need to get these last few classes out of the way before taking them" Emma inhales nervously at the thought. "But seriously Ruby what if I don't get in? What am I supposed to do?"

Rubbing the blonde's arm, Ruby looks sympathetic. "You will but..if you want some reassurance why not ask the professor for some advice? Maybe she could give you an inkling on how your work is going and whether extra revision will be needed?"

Weighing up her options, the blonde nods with a small smile. "Okay. Let's just get the class done first. I still don't get why you're doing these classes when your Granny expects you to take over the family business"

Rolling her eyes, the brunette pouts as she follows Emma into the room. "Please don't remind me, she's driving me insane and doesn't get that I have my own ambitions"

Letting out a chuckle, the blonde pauses, briefly watching as to where her friend goes to sit before approaching the professors desk. Glancing across from her seat, the brunette professor raises an eyebrow. "Yes Miss Swan?"

Clearing her throat slightly from the uneasy stare she is receiving, Emma bites her lip. "Would it be possible to have a talk with you after the lecture about my progress? I need some advice on my application for medical school"

Trying to hide a smile at the reaction that the blonde has given her, the professor nods. "Of course. Although I can inform you now that you have nothing to worry about dear"

"Oh.." Slowly smiling, relieved, the blonde nods in acknowledgment to thank the woman then turns to find her seat beside Ruby.

xx

Standing to pack her books and notepad away, Emma lifts her bag onto her desk and pulls the zip, reaching for her glasses case. Having watched the young woman, the professor closes the classroom door once the last student has dispersed then walks up to the blonde's desk before perching herself against the desk in front and crossing her arms in a relaxing stance. "So Miss Swan, what exactly did you need my help with? Have you got the application with you?"

Abandoning her glasses case to the desk, Emma then pulls out an envelope containing the application forms that needed to be filled. "I made a start but then I lost my nerve as I realised I should technically wait until my exams are over..it could all go wrong"

"There is nothing wrong with giving yourself a head start and you clearly know in your mind exactly what you want to do with your life so why not fill it in?" Taking the papers out the envelope, the brunette scans the page then gestures towards the seat behind the blonde. "Sit down.." Reaching behind herself, the professor pulls the desk chair out in which she was stood against and sits down, facing the worried student.

Having sat down by the older woman's orders, the blonde bites on her gum with worry and fiddles with her pen. "What if I end up having a major freak out over my exams and mess them all up?" Sighing, Emma slumps back. "I need this..I need a fresh start.."

Frowning slightly, the brunette places the papers down on the blonde's desk before clasping her hands together on the surface. "Are you having any problems that could effect your focus?"

"No..not really. I mean everyone has problems at home but it's nothing serious.." Emma explains with a conflicted look.

Pursing her lips, not really believing a word that the blonde had just said, the professor once again lifts the papers. "How about we fill them in together? That way you won't get anything wrong. We will leave the space for your results for now and I can also write you a reference" staring directly at Emma, the brunette smiles in reassurance. "With your knowledge, you will get in Emma"

Starting to calm, the blonde then leans forward against the desk to meet the woman and holds the pen out for the professor to take.

xx

After completing what could be done on the application forms and packing away, both women make their way out of the building with the brunette tightening her belt strap on her Mac while Emma hugs her arms over her jean jacket. Noticing that it is now dark, the professor glances over towards the blonde. "Looks like we took longer than we thought. May I offer you a lift home? Actually forget I asked..you probably live on campus"

Shaking her head abruptly, the blonde feels awkward at what she is about to confess. "No..I..well i couldn't afford a room here and save for med school and there is no need, thank you, but my father is a little..funny about people at the house"

"Oh..we'll have a safe journey home Miss Swan" giving a brief smile, the brunette goes to head towards her car.

"Professor Mills?"

"Hm?" Stopping by her car door, the professor looks over her shoulder at the young woman.

Smiling, Emma goes coy. "Thank you..for all your help"

"Not a problem dear and its Regina..we are out of hours and we are both adults I'm sure we can drop the formalities"

Nodding, the blonde repeats. "Thank you..Regina.."

Feeling bad for just leaving Emma behind, the brunette frowns in concern. "Are you sure you don't want a lift? I can always drop you off in your street and not outside your house?"

Sensing Regina's worry, the blonde looks down for a moment. "Okay..sure.."

Turning and getting into her car, the professor leans across and pushes the passenger door open then waits for Emma to get in. Circling the vehicle and sliding in, the blonde closes the door and passes directions as to where to

go.

[illegible]

"I'm sorry, what happened?!"

Rolling her eyes, Emma looks towards Ruby as they sat in their local diner with a coffee before their final lecture of the day. "Nothing? She gave me a lift home? Why are you making such a big deal of this?"

Smirking, the tall brunette quickly remarks. "Because of your growing crush ever since you saw her?"

Frowning, the blonde chuckles. "No I haven't. I mean yes who wouldn't find her attractive, but crush? No"

"If you say so. We will soon find out if you end up making puppy eyes at the woman during class" teasing, Ruby stands from their booth and waves towards her Granny before heading out.

Sighing, Emma follows. "Even if I did have a crush, so what? She would never look at me twice in that way"

Stopping within the pathway, the tall brunette sniggers. "Then how comes out of the whole entire class, you are the only one she has ever called by first name? She always uses people's last names but yet the occasional Emma gets out there"

"That is what you're seriously going by? That she calls me by my _name_? Honestly all that happened was that she helped me fill out my med papers!" The blonde shakes her head in disbelief then continues on to campus, heading towards the building in which they were to have their lecture which just so happens to be with the brunette professor herself.

Strolling in beside her friend, Ruby nudges the blonde with a wink as she leads off to sit down. Suddenly becoming conscious of the tall brunette's obvious behaviour, Emma looks a little wide eyed as she goes to follow but is prevented by a hand upon her arm. Glancing over to find the owner to be Regina, the blonde subtly gulps.

"Miss Swan is everything alright?"

Merely nodding, Emma attempts a small smile then makes her way over to sit beside Ruby who is currently trying to hold back her laughter at the previous scene.

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As the students once again file out of the room leaving Emma to trail behind her brunette friend, the blonde stop within the doorway hearing her name being called and looks over towards the professor's desk.

"Emma?.." Realising her error as Ruby is also still there, the brunette clears her throat awkwardly. "...er..Miss Swan?"

Sharing a look with her friend, the blonde turns back inside the class and closes the door. "Yeah?"

"Your focus wasn't completely there today was it? I marked what you had done in the first half of the lecture and you didn't..score..very well.."

Sighing in defeat, Emma nods while glancing down. "I know..I just I'm getting a little anxious and stressed over it all..it's really important to me and if I screw it up, then that is it. I'm going to be stuck living with my father for the rest of my life and I do not want that"

Rising from her chair, Regina makes her way up to the young woman. "I understand but we need to find a way to prevent you from getting stressed..I know you know all of this Emma, I've seen it in your previous work"

Shrugging lightly, Emma cringes. "Yeah..well..panicking.."

Taking hold of both the blonde's arms, the professor prompts her to look at her. "First thing is to take a breath.."

Physically deflating at what is being said, the blonde then stares at her like it is pointless while internally feeling awkward at the woman having hold of her arms. Giving Emma's arms a small rub, Regina then let's go and turns back to her desk, moving some papers around. "What are you doing Thursday night?"

Blinking in shock of the words, Emma frowns. "I..erm..nothing, why?"

"Is there somewhere other than your home that we could meet? I am going to get you to get a hold on all this. You're going to be an excellent surgeon and one day in the future when you step up to say, become chief? You're going to thank me in your speech in front of all your colleagues" smirking over at the blonde playfully, Regina then smiles seeing the young woman laugh.

Calming herself, the blonde ends up on a chuckle. "Well you are going to be waiting a very long time for that to happen.."

Scolding Emma with her hands on her hips, the professor sighs. "Stop putting yourself down! Now..Thursday?"

Nodding, the blonde bites her lip. "I think I know a place, I will just need to check first"

"Okay. Well here is my number, just let me know..or if you're stuck on any work. Give me a call" passing over a business card, Regina smiles briefly then packs up the rest of her belongings. "Need a lift again?"

Twirling the card between her fingers, Emma grins. "Sure why not.."

2. Chapter 2

****Chapter 2****

"Thanks for this Ruby and Granny..there was no way I could do this at

home"

Glancing through the back of the diner as she sets out the last of the chairs for the evening customers, the tall brunette smiles at her friend who has prepared the back room for a study session. "Don't worry about it..just make sure you keep the door closed in case Leroy decides to join you, you know what he is like after one to many. Besides you want to impress right?"

Seeing her friends playful smirk, Emma rolls her eyes. "Seriously you need to stop with all this. One of these days you're going to slip up and say something in front of Regina"

"Regina is it? Oh Swan you are totally in there!"

Throwing her hands up in defeat, the blonde shrugs. "I'm ignoring you now.."

Hearing the jingle of the small bell above the diner door, Ruby scans across at the new customer. "Yeah well..you have a professor present anyway" heading over to the older woman, the tall brunette informs her professor that Emma is out the back then heads around the counter to help Granny.

Following through to where Ruby directed, Regina smiles upon seeing Emma stood by the couch, sipping from a bottle of water. "I know I said that you needed to de-stress dear but here? With a couch?"

Not clocking onto her playful tone, the blonde lowers her water bottle a little wide eyed. "I can drag a table through from the diner if you want?"

Shaking her head with a chuckle, the brunette removes her Mac then places her bag down beside the couch. "Right..sit down Miss Swan"

Biting her lip, Emma raises an eyebrow but sits on the couch. "What exactly are we going to be doing? You never specified..just that you want me to get a hold on..my work?"

Sitting down beside the blonde, the professor places a hand on the young woman's arm. "We are going to have a little advice session. When you work or revise, where do you usually do it?"

Shrugging a little while glancing towards her arm, Emma replies. "Depends..sometimes just my room as it's the only place in the house I can actually have some peace or the library..but even then I can't focus completely because I'm always watching the clock to see when they are closing.."

Giving a little frown while thinking it over, Regina then looks towards Emma again. "Okay. What relaxes you the most? For some it's listening to music.."

"Sometimes..but I can't at home because my father..he finds it rude if I have earphones on.." Feeling a little awkward talking about her father, the blonde rubs her hands along her knees.

"Emma..is everything okay at home? Surely your father must know that you're an adult about to finish college. I know by the time I was 21,

my mother was practically kicking me out the door to enjoy my freedom and independence.."

Nodding, the blonde attempts a smile. "Yes it's fine..he's just a little overprotective. I think mainly because I'm adopted and actually I'm 24. I couldn't go to college straight away and had to leave it a couple of years..it's just made me more determined now though"

Taking a deep breath, the professor gulps while muttering to herself as she reaches for her bag. "I can't believe I'm doing this.." Going inside and pulling out a key, the brunette holds it out to Emma. "Now I'm only doing this because I believe in you and I'm trusting you.."

Screwing her nose confused, the blonde gestures to the key. "What is that for?"

"My family has an apartment a couple of blocks down the street for when they come to visit as my parents don't live here and insist on not imposing in my house. They are not coming for a couple of months so..use it. Use it for your studying but please make sure you don't break anything or have any wild parties. I'm putting a lot of faith in you Miss Swan.."

Looking speechless, Emma accepts the key. "I..erm..thank you..but..are you sure?"

Nodding, Regina clasps her hands together upon her lap. "When you're ready to use it, I'll come and meet you so that I can show you what's what..you may even use my desk in the back room"

"Okay.." Giving a coy smile, the blonde then bites her lip. "So technically this wasn't really a lesson so to speak?"

Pursing her lips, the brunette shakes her head in disbelief. "Of course it is..I also want you to redo your work from Tuesday's lecture" pulling out some papers from her bag, the professor lays them on the coffee table and stands. "You got twenty minutes Swan"

Dropping her mouth open, Emma watches as the older woman makes her way back to the diner then lifts the papers with a pout.

xx

Finishing sooner than the time given, Emma grins to herself and strolls into the diner triumphantly then heads up to the counter where her professor is sat upon a stool while nursing a coffee. "Done!" Placing the papers in front of the brunette, the blonde looks smug.

Releasing her grip on the mug in front of her, Regina raises an eyebrow as she side glances at the young woman. "Little full of yourself aren't we?"

Bouncing slightly on her feet, Emma nods with a grin. "Because I'm right and that's right..I've got this"

Chuckling at the blonde's sudden confidence, the brunette scans over the pages. "It would appear that you are dear..now if you just keep this up, you will sail into med school"

"I've been trying to tell her like forever" Ruby cuts in, joining the pair but on the opposite side of the counter as she is serving.

"Looks like you have all the support you need..." The professor states while looking towards the blonde.

Sniggering, Emma takes the papers to head through to the back again.
"Not all the support but yeah.."

Frowning, Regina clasps her hands around her mug once again then looks towards the tall brunette in front of her. "Was that comment directed towards her father by any chance?"

Waving her head, Ruby thinks. "It's possible. It's not that she doesn't get support..well at least I don't think it's just that but, he likes her to be at home..he needs to know where she is always.."

Staring back to the empty space in which Emma disappeared, Regina mutters under her breath. "That can't be healthy.."

[illegible]

Once Saturday came around, Emma found herself at a loss. She tried revising but then her father needed the house for a business meeting of some sort and so here she was sat in her bug wondering what to do. He had informed her that she shouldn't go far and needed to know of her whereabouts. _'Really? I'm 24 this is ridiculous!_' Sighing, the blonde glances up at the house then lifts a small key out of her pocket. Mulling over her options, she quickly sets her car into drive and pulls out of the driveway.

Soon finding herself stood outside an apartment building, Emma looks up at the high rise then twirls the key within her hands. Should she just go up? Or should she inform Regina like the woman had proposed? Rolling her eyes, the blonde reaches for her phone and dials.

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__"Hello?"__
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Realising that it is the first time they have spoken on a phone, Emma gulps while wetting her lips. "Hey..it's Emma. Listen I'm at your parents apartment..I needed somewhere peaceful..so..is it okay if I just go up? If it's not I've got my bug it's fine"

"Wait for me in the foyer. I'm coming over..and bug?"

Looking to the ground to hide a smile, the blonde nods to herself. "My car..it's a beetle..so bug..yellow..worn down.." Hearing the woman laugh lightly, Emma hitches her breath.

"Oh. I see. Well give me 5 minutes"

"Okay..see you soon.." The blonde hangs up and heads into the foyer

as instructed then waits.

xx

Watching as the brunette comes rushing through the revolving doors, heels clicking hard against the marble floor, Emma tries her hardest to not let her jaw drop at the sight. Yes Regina was always well dressed for her job but this was completely different. Her usually straight shoulder length hair was now curled and clipped up at the back, leaving a couple of loose strands to frame her face while wearing a black, completely sequinned dress with a silver suit jacket, black clutch and heels to match.

Beginning to stare, the blonde then blinks before speaking. "Are you going out?"

Forgetting, Regina briefly glances down at herself then waves a hand. "Yes, friends party..birthday..she's decided to have it at that new club in the city.."

"Then what are you doing here? Please don't tell me I just ruined your plans. Go have fun!" Gesturing in a rather demanding tone, Emma glares at the woman while pointing to the door.

Not being able to help but smile, the brunette then holds her hand out for the key within the blonde's hands. "I'm not going anywhere until you're settled"

Trying to hold her stare, the blonde then sighs. "Fine let's go" dropping the key onto the professors palm, Emma then tries to hurry her along. "Come on, keeping moving"

Being lightly pushed towards the elevator, Regina raises an eyebrow as she glances over her shoulder. "Need I remind of who you are talking to Miss Swan?"

Rolling her eyes as they step inside and press for which floor they need, Emma replies. "I am well aware of who I am talking to _Regina_"

Squinting towards the young woman, Regina crosses her arms. "You're never this confident in class"

Shrugging, the blonde presses the button again impatiently as the doors begin to close. "Yeah well..learning and flirting are two different things"

Intrigued, the brunette clears her throat realising that the young woman has no clue on what she just said. "...hm...flirting?"

Eyes widening, Emma gulps. "Well..I..it's not..it's not that I like you.." Seeing the woman frown, the blonde mentally kicks herself. "..I mean I do like you obviously you're not a horrible person to not like but I mean I don't like you in that way..you're..you and I'm me..and we would never go..but you're cool.." Frowning herself while thinking _'cool?'_, Emma bites her lip quickly to stop herself saying anything more.

Listening to the whole rambling speech from the young woman, Regina appears confused and doesn't know whether she should feel hurt or

not. "What exactly do you mean, you're you and I'm me?"

Gesturing to their appearances, Emma explains. "Because you're..all like that and I'm all like this.."

Hearing the ding of the bell as they reach their floor and the doors open, the professor steps out first while commenting. "You should never judge a book Miss Swan"

"True but you're always dressed all..fancy and..-"

"So you think what? I don't own a pair of jeans? Because if you must know I do and too be honest right now I don't know whether I should feel insulted. Yes I like to wear clothes that are on the fancier side but that's for my own pleasure and it most certainly does not make me superior than anyone else"

Realising she has put her foot in it while following the irritated woman, the blonde appears apologetic. "I didn't mean it like that..I just meant..I guess I wouldn't understand what you would see in me if..if..there were a connection?"

Pausing along the corridor, Regina turns to face the young woman with a less irritated and more sympathetic gaze. "Emma..like I just stated..I am not better for the clothes I wear which means you're no less with what you wear. You have nothing to worry about in the looks department anyway, but what I would hope others would see in you or someone you eventually meet, is that you are kind, smart, considerate and extremely talented. If they cannot see that, they are not worth your time"

Remaining quiet, Emma dares to meet the older woman's eyes then smiles a little.

Gripping the keys in her hand, the brunette then makes her way up to the apartment door and opens it. "On that note, I believe a drink is now in order after that in depth conversation before I depart for my friends birthday"

Looking surprised, the blonde closes the door behind them as Regina makes her way over to the kitchen a joined to the living area and immediately searches within the fridge for some wine before retrieving two glasses for them both.

A/N: I don't buy Emma's little speech on not liking her...

3. Chapter 3

Chapter 3

Abandoning any current thought on studying, Emma sits beside her professor on the couch within the Mills family apartment. Watching as the brunette finishes her glass of wine, the blonde questions. "Shouldn't you be with your friends right now?"

Shrugging with a pursed lip, Regina reaches for the bottle to refill her glass. "Trust me, I won't be missed..I'll just slip in when there is half an hour left so I don't need an escape plan"

"Oh? Why would you need to escape?" Holding out her glass and accepting the older woman's offer of more wine, Emma watches intrigued as to what her answer may be.

"Let's just say when your best friend is about to pop out her fourth child and you end up being the only singleton at the party, you need an escape plan in order, as there will be a few set ups lined up in curtesy of that said friend"

Laughing a little, the blonde sips her wine. "Why don't you just tell her you're seeing someone already?"

Sniggering, the brunette shakes her head. "That would start an inquisition over who, where and when"

"Then..."exhaling deeply, the younger woman bites her lip before smiling. "I'm out..I have nothing left to suggest"

Smiling back, the professor leans her head back against the top of the couch momentarily before lifting it and looking back to Emma. "Anyway. You need to study. I'm going to raid the fridge to soak up some of this alcohol before I need to leave"

"Seriously two glasses and you're drunk?" the blonde raises an eyebrow while watching the older woman stand and make her way over to the kitchen.

"I never said I was drunk dear, just making sure I have a clear head before I go into battle"

"True but when your professor announces she's going to _raid_ the fridge, something is clearly not right.."

Placing her hand on her hip, Regina looks unimpressed. "I think I should be insulted. You. _Work_."

Muttering under her breath, Emma retrieves her bag to search for her books. "Kinda hard when you're distracted.."

Pausing by the fridge, the professor sighs to herself having heard then makes her way back to the couch without a word, collecting her bag and heading towards the front door. Looking over completely confused, the blonde quickly stands. "Regina?"

Gripping the door handle, the brunette glances over her shoulder. "I told you Emma. Work. I'll see you on Monday" yanking at the door, Regina pulls it opens and steps out, leaving a conflicted blonde to it.

xx

Knocking on the classroom door on Monday, Emma waits until a small 'come in' is heard before stepping inside and closing the door behind her. Without so much as lifting her head, the professor continues marking across a test paper. "What can I do for you Miss Swan? You don't have a lecture with me today"

Slightly taken aback by the change of atmosphere between them, the blonde swallows hard. "I know I don't..I just..if I did something Saturday to upset you, I'm sorry..you bolted pretty quick out that

door"

Sighing, the brunette drops her pen then looks over while rubbing her forehead. "Emma...you have nothing to be sorry for..it was me. I realised how foolish I had been keeping you from your work and so I left. I don't want to be a _distraction_"

"Oh.." Looking guilty, Emma cringes.

"Yes dear, I heard.." Rising from her seat, Regina walks up to the blonde. "That being said. I'm glad I heard so I could help you further by not being in the way..from now on, I will not be setting foot in the apartment unless absolutely necessary"

"You don't need to do that. I enjoyed your company.." Giving a coy smile, the blonde then perches herself against a desk.

"And your company was much preferred to those who were at my friends gathering.." Claspings her hands together in front of herself, the brunette clears her throat. "It was awkward to say the least"

Raising an eyebrow, Emma smirks. "Get set up did we?"

"Yes. Who turned out to be a family friend which was even more awkward, I'm surprised I haven't had my mother on the phone wanting details"

Shoving her hands in her pockets, the blonde bites her lip.
"Will..will you be seeing them again?.."

Running a hand through her hair as she makes her way back to her desk, the professor replies. "I'm not sure..there was an exchange of numbers but that again was thanks to my friend"

Feeling a slight tint of jealousy, Emma goes to speak but it cut off by the brunette's phone ringing. "Maybe that's them now.."

"Sorry, one moment" taking her phone and turning towards the window, Regina answers, leaving the younger woman to glance around the room through the silence.

"Is..yes..no, I'll be right there..I'm coming now" hanging up in a panic, the professor turns back to her desk and frantically begins to collect her papers, dropping the majority on the floor.

"Regina?" Heading over quickly to help pick up the papers, the blonde crouches down by the desk then grabs at the older woman's arm, noticing that she is shaking. "Hey what is it?"

Managing to file the papers into her folder and shove the whole contents in a bag, the brunette grows teary as she stands. "My father is in hospital..they reckon he had a heart attack..I need to go"

Watching her professor rush to the door and out, Emma quickly follows. "I'm coming with you. Give me your keys, you're not driving"

Reaching her car, Regina goes to protest but simply nods, passing the

keys over and climbing into the passenger side.

[illegible]

Pulling up by the entrance quickly so the brunette can head inside while she parks, Emma ducks her head down to stare through the window, watching as Regina hurries in the entrance and out of sight.

Reaching the nurses desk, the brunette goes to question where her father is but turns on hearing her name being called.

"Mother.."

Wrapping her daughter in a hug having seen her distraught face, Cora speaks. "He's okay Regina, it was a heart attack but a small one..they said he will be just fine. They are looking him over now"

Clinging to her mother's back, the younger brunette questions. "Do they know what brought it on?"

"What they always say, stress. Henry has been over working himself with the company.."

Pulling back, Regina sniffles as the older woman wipes a tear from her daughters cheek. "Come on, they said we can see him shortly"

Nodding, the professor looks down the corridor wondering as to where Emma went and spots her to the side as if waiting. "Oh..mother sorry I just need to..."

Following her daughters gaze, Cora notices the awkward looking blonde and smiles. "You were with a friend?"

"No..well..I..she's in my class. I was speaking to her when you called. She offered to drive me here considering my state" Regina explains as Emma walks up to the pair.

"Hi...is your father okay?"

"He will be, thank you for coming with me and this is my mother Cora. Mother this is Emma.."

Shaking the young woman's hand, the older brunette continues to smile. "Hello Emma, it is nice to meet you although under unfortunate circumstances.."

"Yeah..I'm sorry about your husband Mrs Mills" the blonde nods in acknowledgment then looks to the younger brunette. "Here are your keys..I better get going.."

Frowning, Regina looks to her keys. "How will you get back?"

"I can get the bus, it's fine" smiling in reassurance, Emma backs up a little.

Watching her daughter become conflicted, Cora steps to the side and towards the desk to ask for any more updates.

"Please stay..at least then I can drive you home..or near your home as you've said previously" the professor looks pleadingly at the blonde. "Please"

"Sure..." The blonde gives a small smile then walks up to the brunette as the woman pats her arm in thanks.

[illegible]

Walking around the couch in the Mills apartment, Emma passes Regina her cup of coffee before squeezing the woman's shoulder in comfort as the brunette stares ahead. Briefly glancing up, the professor blinks as her eyes water then sips on the hot liquid given to her. Sitting down beside the professor, the blonde continues to watch cautiously. "What did they say in the end?"

"That he will need to stay in the week but there is no serious concern. He just needs to cut back and rest"

Placing her own drink down on the coffee table, Emma looks hopeful.
"See, he's going to be fine"

Looking over to see the younger woman smile, Regina smiles back. "You are going to make a great doctor you know..you've made me feel better just by your words"

Chuckling, the blonde shrugs then smiles again causing the brunette to laugh. "I aim to please"

"Oh really. Well you really helped today so thank you"

"What are friends for?"

"Are we?" Frowning slightly, the professor looks intrigued. "Are we friends?"

"I'd like to think so" Emma confesses while looking away embarrassed.

Placing her mug beside the blonde's on the table, Regina reaches across for the woman's hand, giving it a squeeze between her own. "Then we are"

Turning back to the brunette, the blonde then glances towards their hands and takes a deep breath. "Regina, I need to tell you something..."

4. Chapter 4

****Chapter 4****

"What are friends for?"

"Are we?" Frowning slightly, the professor looks intrigued. "Are we friends?"

"I'd like to think so" Emma confesses while looking away

embarrassed._

_Placing her mug beside the blonde's on the table, Regina reaches across for the woman's hand, giving it a squeeze between her own. "Then we are" _

Turning back to the brunette, the blonde then glances towards their hands and takes a deep breath. "Regina, I need to tell you something..."

XX

Frowning in concern over the blonde's nervous state, Regina keeps hold of the woman's hand in hope of giving some form of comfort and ease. "Go on.."

"I erm..I..wasn't completely honest before..when I said that i..didn't like you that way" Trying her best to avoid the brunette's gaze, Emma glances towards her lap.

Screwing her nose slightly, something which the blonde tries not to look at finding it cute, the professor comments. "I'm afraid I don't understand.."

"That whole rambling moment in the elevator on Saturday..I lied because you caught me...I was flirting with you and I panicked when you brought it up so I decided to defuse the subject completely..but the truth is I..do like you and the reason I am being honest now is because I don't think I can be friends with you based on a lie"

Raising an eyebrow surprised, Regina replies. "Oh Emma..I..I do like you just..i don't think-"

"It's okay, you don't have to say anymore, I get it. You're not interested but I hope we can still be friends" feeling deflated, the blonde bites her lip to stop a pout.

"No..it's not..that I..I just think with our professional relationship, that this would be..I mean..it would.." Continuing to look towards Emma, the brunette is a loss for words witnessing the blonde's rejected expression. Shaking her head briefly, the professor leans her head forward then lifts the younger woman's chin. Muttering a quick 'forgive me', Regina presses her lips lightly against Emma's then goes to draw back but is prevented as a pair of hands take hold against her waist to bring her closer, deepening the kiss. Moving back once again when air becomes an issue, the brunette looks slightly stunned towards the blonde and gulps. "I..I want to regret that but..I really can't.."

Letting out a small laugh at seeing Regina give a smile at her statement, the blonde clears her throat then stares at the woman. "So..."

"I should leave.." Standing rather quickly not trusting herself around the young woman, the professor glances down to meet Emma's slightly sad gaze. "This place is for you to..study not.."

"Make out with the professor?" Emma completes the older woman's sentence bluntly.

Cringing a little, Regina nods. "I just..I want you to succeed.."

Noticing the cringe and feeling bad for making the brunette feel that way, the blonde reaches out to loosely take her dangling hand. "And I will.." Smiling, the blonde lets go then reaches for the nearest textbook on the coffee table.

Watching briefly, the brunette then leaves with conflicting thoughts on how much she cares for Emma and wishes for more.

XX

Unfortunately for Emma, Regina was a no show during class on Tuesday and she prayed that everything was okay with the brunette's father. When the evening came around and despite having a very boring substitute professor for the lecture, the blonde had found herself back at the Mills apartment, finishing every piece of work she could find into the early hours before sneaking back home. Something she still found comical, a grown woman having to sneak into her own house in case her father notices she was home late from the _library_.

After meeting with Ruby for a much needed coffee Wednesday morning, Emma strolled slowly into class in no mood for the boring lecture she was about to endure.

"Oh..looks like it won't be as boring as yesterday after all.."

Snapping out of her tired daze, the blonde looks towards her brunette friend then over towards the desk to find Regina sat behind it sorting out today's plan and moving items on her desk which had been moved yesterday much to her dislike. "Oh.." Following Ruby to their desks, Emma sits down while keeping her eyes trained on the older woman at the front.

Shuffling some papers, the professor lifts her head to begin her lecture and let's out a small subtle smile upon seeing the blonde stare at her. "I must apologise for my absence yesterday as I had to take a personal day but I am now back and I do hope you will all stay focused with me today after your very..interesting lecture yesterday. Having read the notes, even I would have fell asleep.." Hearing the class give a small laugh, the brunette nods then turns to the board. "Okay let's get started..."

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As the class collect their belongings, Emma whispers towards her friend to go on ahead then makes her way up to the desk slowly, tilting her head to watch the rest of the students leave.

"Emma?"

Turning back to the brunette stood behind her desk, the blonde questions in concern. "Is everything okay with your father? You weren't in and I thought..are you okay?"

Chuckling lightly at the rush of questions, Regina takes the blonde's arm to encourage the young woman to take a deep breath. "I was off because of my father but he is fine. My mother simply needed some support as he will be discharged by the end of the week..as for me? I'm just a little tired"

Visibly relaxing with a sigh of a relief, Emma gives a small smile. "Okay.."

"Okay" smiling back, the professor begins packing up her desk silently. Watching for a moment, the blonde bites her lip then heads towards the door. Pausing, Regina looks across to see what she assumed was Emma leaving the class only to watch the blonde close the door then lock it tight. "Emma what are you doing?"

Heading back to the older woman, the blonde circles the brunette's desk then stands before her. "I just needed to.."

Seeing the young woman move forward, Regina goes to protest. "Emma I don't think that we should-" feeling a pair of arms engulf her into a tight hug, the brunette stops talking and gradually lifts her arms up to hold onto Emma's back.

"I'm glad you're okay, and your father..I just thought..I know I needed this, maybe you did too.."

Clinging slightly, taking a chance by burying her face into the blonde's shoulder, the professor nods against her as she takes in a deep breath, gaining the smell of the young woman's natural vanilla scent. Feeling Emma's arms loosen and disappear from her back, Regina looks up at seeing the blonde move away. With no hesitation, the brunette quickly leans forward and kisses her while reaching for the young woman's face.

Stumbling slightly not expecting it, Emma places a hand briefly onto the older woman's desk and kisses back before shifting closer again, locking her hands together around the brunette's waist. Slowing down with a couple of pecks, Regina disconnects their lips then rests her forehead against Emma's with a sigh before confessing in a whisper. "I can't _not_ do this.."

"I don't see why not. We are both consenting adults? It's not illegal" without moving, the blonde locks eyes with the brunette with a smile. "I want this..with you"

"Me too"

Pecking her lips, Emma moves back again but slides her hand into Regina's, linking their fingers tightly together. "Now this is the part where I go all responsible as it's usually you. I guess I have taken a page out of your book because I have all the work you set out completed"

Frowning, the professor looks confused. "I gave you work to last you at least until next week.."

Shrugging, the blonde bites her lip. "I wanted to get it done for you and for me..I just..having that other professor yesterday made me realise how much you _are_ actually helping me with my studies and

you make me want to learn. Yes I have this dream to be somebody but I know for a fact that I won't be able to do it without you through my studies and by my side"

Stroking Emma's cheek with her thumb in awe, Regina responses. "And now you have exhausted yourself. I understand your motive but you need to take your time. Did you even sleep last night?"

"About an hour..."

"Emma..."

"I know! But now it's done..so..here" having to take her hand back, the blonde reaches in her bag and passes all the papers, placing them on the desk. "Now I have to go collect my textbooks from the apartment, there is only so many times I can use, I left them at the library as an excuse"

Realising, the brunette looks worried. "Emma your father..I don't think he would be happy if it finds out something is happening between us. He doesn't even like you going to the library without some deadline to be home. I don't want you hurt because of me"

"What?"

"I just..does he?..I need to know and I promise you can tell me anything..does he hurt you?"

"No. I told you..he's just..protective" the young woman explains with a frown. "He always has been..I'm not entirely sure why but..yeah..."

"Okay. Well like I said, _anything_..." Regina looks serious then takes hold of the blondes papers to put in her case. "Are you going to the apartment now? If so I'll follow you"

Raising an eyebrow, the blonde tries to hide a smirk. "Haven't you got your own place to mark papers?"

"Yes but..maybe we could work together" the professor goes coy as she grabs her jacket and bag.

Making her way towards the door and quickly unlocking it, Emma smiles then holds the door open. "Maybe we can"

xx

Having parked both cars, the two women head up the elevator towards the apartment.

"Emma, I'm sorry to have to do this but..I'm afraid you're going to have to go back to studying at the library for a little while..now that my parents are in town and my father needs his rest, they need to apartment. I did insist on them staying with me as my house is most certainly big enough but..like i stated before they are stubborn..."

Listening to the older woman, Emma opens the apartment door. "It's

fine, I don't want your father's recovery to suffer because I've taken the apartment and I can always use the house..you don't need to worry about me-

"Regina? is that you dear?"

Sharing a look, the blonde gulps as Cora walks through from the corridor before spotting her textbooks neatly stacked on the table. Looking between the two women, the older woman raises an eyebrow. "I'm clearly missing something, I thought you weren't friends?" Teasing Regina after picking up on her daughter's feelings at the hospital, Cora smirks.

"We are..I mean..it's complicated.." The brunette nervously replies while looking at her mother.

"Complicated enough that you bring her here?" Gesturing towards the books, the older woman smiles towards Emma. "I see you have made yourself at home.."

"It's not- Mrs Mills, your daughter has been giving me some extra help with my studies. I have no where stable enough to do so and she offered the use of the apartment as you were away. I promise I haven't broken anything or moved anything..I just study.."

Seeing the blondes panicked expression, Cora takes her forearm. "Calm yourself child, i was only messing with you. However, I will need the apartment back"

Nodding, the blonde smiles. "Regina was just telling me.."

"Regina is it?"

Biting her lip coyly, Emma glances towards the younger brunette.

Rolling her eyes, understanding, Regina lightly places a hand to the blondes lower back discreetly. "Mother stop tormenting.."

Shrugging innocently, Cora smiles. "I have set up our room for when your father returns and I have just made some dinner which I need to take up to the hospital, you know your father and hospital food. There is extra left in the pot so why don't you two finish it off?"

"Thank you Mrs Mills but I will just take my books and be gone" Emma states while reaching for her books, hugging them to her chest.

"Oh..well maybe we could all have dinner another time?" Taking her coat and bag, Cora reaches for the tupperware box and opens the front door. "I will see you later dear and it was nice to meet you again Emma.." With a nod, the older brunette leaves.

Closing the door behind her mother, Regina turns towards the blonde sadly. "Do you have to go?"

"I don't have to I just..I thought you would want to get started on your marking and get home.." Emma responds while staring back.

Letting out a small scoff, the brunette strolls up to the younger woman slowly and pouts. "Home..to an empty house.." Shaking her head, the professor takes the books from the blondes grasp and settles them back on the table before taking one of Emma's hands. "I think we have both been _alone_ long enough.."

Allowing her free hand to reach out, taking hold of the back of Regina's head and tangling her fingers within the brunette's hair, the blonde leans forward and presses a kiss to the older woman's forehead. "You could be right"

A/N: like it so far? Also apologies for the lack of update just..you know I kinda met Lana and Rebecca this weekend :p most adorable pair of dorks ever!

End
file.